

Executive Registry

76-2158/A

Orig 1 National News Council

*Fuld, Stanley H.
18 May 1976*

*CIA 3.01.3 Journalists
(orig under ORG 1)*

Mr. Stanley H. Fuld (Judge)
Chairman
The National News Council
One Lincoln Plaza
New York, New York 10023

Dear Mr. Fuld,

Thank you for your letter of May 3rd.

In it you say you are interested in, "learning the CIA's position on the issue of the employment of journalists." I am enclosing a copy of the February 11, 1976 statement the Agency issued on this matter, although I gather you are aware of it. I had hoped that our clarified position would relieve the minds of those in the field of journalism. It has reassured many with whom I have spoken privately. I trust that you are aware that I have also touched on the matter of journalists and intelligence during a talk before the recent ASNE meeting in Washington and in speaking to members of the Overseas Press Club in New York City a few days ago.

I hope you will understand that we feel we are going to have to stand on the statement that has been issued.

Our position on the Senate Select Committee's report has been, as I have told reporters on the Hill, that we do not plan to comment, item by item, on statements made by the Senate Committee in their reports.

Should the attached statement raise additional questions, I would be glad to answer other questions or to arrange for you to meet with someone in the CIA who could discuss this in greater detail.

Sincerely,



George Bush

End.

A/DCI/kgf/17 May 1976

Distribution:

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76-2158

The National News Council

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STANLEY H. FULD, Chairman
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DD/076-2701

OR 91 NATIONAL News
Council

A- Fuld, Stanley

May 3, 1976

~~See~~
CIA 3.01-3 Journalists

Honorable George H. Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Director Bush:

The National News Council wishes to express its deep concern about recent reports regarding the relationship of the American intelligence community to the press of this country and of the effect such a relationship could well have on the free flow of information.

The Council, as you may know, is a voluntary body dedicated to fairness and accuracy of the press as well as its freedom. Six months ago we sent to your predecessor, William E. Colby, a copy of a resolution passed by the Council (November 11, 1975) concerning reports that "journalists without the knowledge of their employers, have been retained by the Central Intelligence Agency, in the fulfillment of various functions for the agency." A copy of that resolution is enclosed.

11th
The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities released a report last week which indicated that perhaps 25-50 reporters continue to be employed by the CIA in some capacity. The manner of their employment and their positions with news organizations in this country is, however, not clear. Although the Senate Committee's report does not so state, some news accounts have suggested that such journalists may be executives of news organizations. I mention this in light of the February 6 statement made by you regarding the Agency's future policy with respect to employment of news correspondents.

The Council, on behalf of a free press and of the free flow of information, is interested in learning the CIA's position on the issue of the employment of journalists. I hasten to note that we are not seeking names of individuals who may be, or may have been, employed by the CIA, but, instead, a clearer exposition of existing relationships and the portent those relationships might hold for a free press in a free society.

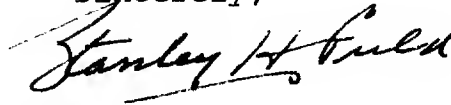
Honorable George H. Bush

May 3, 1976

Page Two

Consequently, as the Council's chairman, I shall deeply appreciate it if you would permit representatives of the Council to meet with you - at a place and time agreeable to you - so that the matters which trouble us could be constructively discussed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stanley H. Fuld". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".